Project to workout residual life of power plants

2046. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to begin afresh its ambitious project to work out the residual life of 96 power plants in India;

(b) if so, whether residual life assessment helps pinpoint a plant's operational deficiency so that it could be renovated;

(c) whether the Ministry had been able to carry out assessment at only nine units adding up to 800 MW during four years of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether all the power plants are at present operating below national average; and

(e) if so, whether the Ministry is now extending the programme into Eleventh Five Year Plan, for a better and proper road-map?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Life Extension works based on Residual Life Assessment (RLA) studies of thermal units are being carried out since 8th Five Year Plan Period. The Life Extension (LE) works on 4 and 25 thermal units were completed in the 8th and 91h Five Year Plans respectively. The process of LE works are still continuing in the 10th Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The LE works on 9 thermal units (815 MW) have already completed based on the RLA studies during the 10th Five Year Plan so far. In addition, RLA studies on 21 units (2684 MW) have already been completed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The programme of Life Extension of existing older units is likely to continue in 11th Plan.

Rural electrification in Jharkhand

†2047. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages planned to be electrified in Jharkhand under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana;

(b) the amount allocated for this scheme during the last two financial years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the progress of the scheme in the State and whether it is satisfactory; and

(d) the total number of villages electrified so far in the State and the number of those villages which are yet to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per 2001 Census, there are 21713 un-electrified villages in Jharkhand. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) envisages electrification of all un-electrified villages by 2009 except villages covered under Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) programme of village electrification.

(b) Rs. 1100 crore were allocated & released under the scheme during 2005-06. Rs. 3000 crore have been allocated for 2006-07 under the scheme.

(c) Jharkhand state so far has submitted 21 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 21 districts of the state. The Monitoring Committee of Ministry of Power (MOP) has accorded "in principle" approval to 11 DPRs with an outlay on Rs. 1141.85 crore for electrification of 6689 un-electrified villages, re-electrification on 890 de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 4326 already electrified villages in 11 districts of the state.

(d) As per 2001 Census out of 29354 inhabited villages only 7641 villages are electrified, leaving thereby 21713 villages as un-electrified.

Project for strengthening western grid

2048. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved a project for strengthening of western grid in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the estimated date of its completion; and

(c) the details of the benefits accruing to Maharashtra following the project's completion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Investment approval has been issued for "Western Region